

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~converting inputted speech to~~inputting a text, comprising:

(a) a step ~~of entering for~~inputting a sentence by speech;

(b) a step ~~of recognizing a part of the entered speech, and determining for preparing word-string candidates of word strings as a unit which consist of one to several words from the recognized part of the entered~~inputted sentence by performing speech recognition processing;

(c) a step ~~of~~for displaying the prepared candidates; and

(d) a step ~~of allowing a user to select from~~for selecting from among the displayed candidates by a user,

wherein the candidate preparing step (b), the displaying step (c) and the selecting step (d) are repeated to recognize the sentence for each successive word-string, and

wherein a remaining part of the entered speech is recognized by sequentially repeating the candidates ~~candidates determining~~prepared in the candidate preparing step (b), the displaying step (c), and the selecting step (d), in a unit of the word-string from a beginning of the entered speech are obtained by repetition of an extension processing step (b1) for performing an extension of words, the extension processing step (b1) determining whether to link the words based on a word-based linkage probability obtained by a language model.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~converting inputted speech to~~inputting a text according to claim ~~221~~, wherein ~~said~~the candidate ~~determining~~preparing step (b) further ~~having~~including a process to update ~~the~~an arrangement of the candidates dueaccording to an acoustic score after the repetition of the extension processing step (b1).

4. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~converting inputted speech to~~inputting a text according to claim ~~31~~, wherein ~~said~~the repetition of the extension process step (b1) is ended by reaching of a number of ~~phrase~~the word-string candidates subjected to ~~said~~the extension process by a predetermined number as counted from a top rank in a language score.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ~~converting inputted speech to~~inputting a text, comprising:

an input section for ~~entering~~inputting a sentence by speech;

~~a speech~~an utterance pre-processing section for extracting a feature amount of the ~~entered speech~~ inputted from ~~said~~the input section;

a word candidate preparing section for preparing ~~a~~following word-string candidates from a fixed word-string by using a language model;

a word-string preparing section for preparing a word-string candidates as ~~a unit which consists~~ of one to several words ~~based on recognizing a part of the entered speech using from~~ the extracted feature amount ~~corresponding to the part of the entered speech and from the~~ word-string candidate by using the language model;

a display section for displaying the prepared word-string candidates;

an operating section for a user to select ~~one of~~ from among the word-string candidates being displayed, ~~the selected word-string candidate forming the fixed word-string~~; and

a candidate-preparation instructing section for instructing ~~said~~the word candidate preparing section to prepare the following word candidate from the ~~fixed~~ word-string candidate selected by ~~said~~the operating section,

wherein ~~said~~the word-string preparing section ~~sequentially repeats preparation of said word-string candidates for a remaining part of the entered speech using said following word candidate, in a unit of the word-string from a beginning of the entered speech to recognize the remaining part of the entered speech~~prepared in the word-string preparing section are obtained by repetition of an extension process for performing an extension of words, the extension process determining whether to link the words based on a word-based linkage probability obtained by the language model.

6. - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ~~converting inputted speech to~~inputting a text according to claim 5, wherein ~~said~~the apparatus is included in a cellular telephone.

10. - 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A ~~storage-computer-readable~~ medium tangibly embodying a encoded with a data structure which causes a computer to perform a method for inputting a test comprising: ~~program of instructions executable by machine to perform method steps for converting inputted speech to text, said method repeating in order:~~

(a) a step ~~of entering~~for inputting a sentence by speech;

(b) a step ~~of recognizing a part of the entered speech, and determining for preparing word-string~~ candidates of word-strings as a unit~~which consist~~ of one to

several words from the ~~recognized part of the entered speech~~inputted sentence by performing speech recognition processing;

(c) a step ~~of~~for displaying the prepared candidates; and

(d) a step ~~of allowing a user to select from~~for selecting from among the displayed candidates by a user; and

wherein the candidate preparing step (b), the displaying step (c) and the selecting step (d) are repeated to recognize the sentence for each successive word-string, and

wherein a remaining part of the entered speech is recognized by sequentially repeating said the candidate candidates determiningprepared in the candidate preparing step (b), said displaying step (c) and said selecting step (d), in a unit of the word string from a beginning of the entered speech are obtained by repetition of an extension processing step (b1) for performing an extension of words, the extension processing step (b1) determining whether to link the words based on a word-based linkage probability obtained by a language model.

14. - 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product ~~tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by machine~~encoded with a data structure which causes a computer to perform a method steps for converting inputted speech to text, said method repeating in orderinputting a text comprising:

(a) a step ~~of entering~~for inputting a sentence by speech;

(b) a step ~~of recognizing a part of the entered speech, and determining~~for preparing word-string candidates ~~of word strings as a unit~~which consist of one to several words from the ~~recognized part of the entered~~inputted sentence by performing speech recognition processing;

(c) a step ~~of~~ displaying the prepared candidates; and

(d) a step ~~of allowing a user to select from~~ for selecting from among the displayed candidates by a user;

wherein the candidate preparing step (b), the displaying step (c) and the selecting step (d) are repeated to recognize the sentence for each successive word-string, and

wherein a remaining part of the entered speech is recognized by sequentially repeating said candidate determining the candidates prepared in the candidate preparing step (b), said displaying step (c) and said selecting step (d), in a unit of the word string from a beginning of the entered speech are obtained by repetition of an extension processing step (b1) for performing an extension of words, the extension processing step (b1) determining whether to link the words based on a word-based linkage probability obtained by a language model.

18. - 22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) A method for inputting a text according to claim 1, wherein, in the step of repeating the candidate preparing step (b), the displaying step (c) and the selecting step (d), when a word-string is selected in advance, the candidate preparing step (b) determines the word-string as the candidate based on either language information or acoustic information.

24. (New) A method for inputting a text according to claim 1, wherein the extension processing step (b1) determines to link the words when a judgment is made for linking the words and not to link the words if the judgment is made for not linking the words.

25. (New) A method for inputting a text according to claim 1, wherein the extension processing step (b1) prepares longer word-string candidates when it is determined to link the words than if it is determined not to link the words.

26. (New) An apparatus for inputting a text according to claim 5, where the extension process determines to link the words when a judgment is made for linking the words and not to link the words if the judgment is made for not linking the words.

27. (New) An apparatus for inputting a text according to claim 5, wherein the extension processing prepares longer word-string candidates when it is determined to link the words than if it is determined not to link the words.

28. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 13, wherein the extension processing step (b1) determines to link the words when a judgment is made for linking the words and not to link the words if the judgment is made for not linking the words.

29. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 13, wherein the extension processing step (b1) prepares longer word-string candidates when it is determined to link the words than if it is determined not to link the words.

30. (New) A computer program product according to claim 17, wherein the extension processing step (b1) determines to link the words when a judgment is made for linking the words and not to link the words if the judgment is made for not linking the words.

31. (New) A computer program product according to claim 17, wherein the extension processing step (b1) prepares longer word-string candidates when it is determined to link the words than if it is determined not to link the words.